

Message Text

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46

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EUR-25 AF-10 MMS-03 ACDA-19

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CG-00 CAB-09 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 FAA-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

/163 W

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R 171245Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6425

INFO COMIDEASTFOR

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMTM DHAHRAN

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

S E C R E T JIDDA 1302

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, SA

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: STATE 28352

1. EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING ANSWERS IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL. LETTERS REFER TO ORIGINAL QUESTIONS.

(A) SAG HAS ALWAYS GRANTED CLEARANCE FOR COMIDEASTFOR SHIP VISITS, WHICH HAVE AVERAGED ABOUT THREE PER YEAR, DIVIDED AMONG JIDDA AND DAMMAM, WITH AN OCCASIONAL VISIT TO YENBU. DAMMAM VISITS HAVE AT TIMES BEEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRAINING CRUISE FOR RSN FORCES IN THE GULF. BELIEVE VISITS OF THIS FREQUENCY WOULD CON-

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TINUE TO BE APPROVED. NONE SHOULD BE REQUESTED WHILE OIL

BOYCOTT CONTINUES, HOWEVER.

(B) AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES ARE ROUTINELY GRANTED AND ADDITION OF A FEW MORE FOR CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEM.

(C) SHORE LEAVE HAS ALWAYS BEEN GRANTED WITH NO LIMITATION ON NUMBERS, THOUGH THESE HAVE NEVER EXCEEDED 150 AT A TIME. SAILORS MAY VISIT IN UNIFORM OR OUT, THOUGH EMBASSY USUALLY RECOMMENDS CIVILIAN CLOTHES. SHORE LEAVE USUALLY LIMITED TO DAYTIME SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING SINCE ABSENCE OF BARS, THEATERS OR OTHER PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS GIVES NO REASON FOR STAYING ON SHORE OVERNIGHT. POINTS OF INTEREST CAN USUALLY BE SEEN IN FEW HOURS.

(D) EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT FREQUENCY OF VISITS WOULD JUSTIFY RAISING SUGGESTION OF STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT. IN GENERAL, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS.

(E) VISITING UNITS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ALLOWED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN MILITARY POLICE.

(F) ONCE OIL EMBARGO IS LIFTED BUNKERS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

(G) SAG IS VERY TOLERANT, EVEN INDIFFERENT, TO OTHER PORTS OF CALL IN INDIAN OCEAN. IF ANYTHING, IT WELCOMES RATHER THAN FEARS AN EXPANDED US PRESENCE. UNTIL PERMANENT SOLUTION TO ME CONFLICT IS REACHED, HOWEVER, THERE COULD BE SOME SENSITIVITY IF SHIP HAD PREVIOUSLY CALLED IN AN ISRAELI PORT, INCLUDING ELATH.

(H) ONCE SHIPS ARRIVE FOR RSN (CIRCA 1976-77), OFFER OF SMALL JOINT EXERCISES WOULD BE USEFUL GOOD WILL GESTURE. RSN OFFICERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY JOINED COMIDEASTFOR VESSELS FOR SHORT CRUISES, AND THIS AS BEEN WELCOMED. IN NORMAL TIMES, ALL SUPPORT AVAILABLE IS READILY PROVIDED.

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